

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

the Holy See in the absence, at Avignon, of the Cardinal of Pamplona. In appearance, he was of short stature and thickset, pallid and sallow in complexion. As to his character, Dietrich of Nieheim, afterwards one of his secretaries, assures us that he was " a man humble and devout, keeping his hands free from every gift, a foe and persecutor of simoniacs, a lover of chastity and justice, but one that relied too much on his own prudence, and over-readily gave credence to flatterers."¹ He lacked the suave and courteous manners of the Cardinal of Aragon, the air of a polished man of the world that distinguished the Cardinal of Geneva, the diplomatic astuteness and aristocratic dignity of the Cardinal of Florence ; was brusque and impetuous, easily moved to anger, devoid of restraint and tact in word and in deed—albeit these traits had hitherto been kept in check by his comparatively inferior position.

The Archbishop had lately bought himself a house and a vineyard in Rome, in order to qualify as a Roman citizen. His enemies see a sinister purpose in all his movements during these days. He is said to have been incessant in secretly questioning the Pope's physician, Francesco Casini, during Gregory's last illness, as to the possibility of his recovery. During the nine days of requiem Masses for Gregory's soul at Santa Maria Nuova, he had seized the opportunity of asking Guido de Pruinis to present him to the Bandaresi and their colleagues ; after which he appears frequently to have been present at their secret meetings on the Capitol. There is nothing in all this, however, in the least inconsistent with straightforward dealing, and the accusations made against him, of attempting to purchase the support of the Romans in his designs on the papacy, may be disregarded. It seems certain that he counselled them to be moderate and peaceable. Nardo di Giorgio, an apothecary who was then one of the Bandaresi, and seems to have made a very sinister impression upon the French prelates of the Curia, has left on record that one day he and other Romans requested the Archbishop to go to the cardinals to beseech them to give them ¹ T. de Nyem, *De Schismate*, l. i. 258